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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 6, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BENNIE G. THOMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in response to yesterday's address by the President to this body.

The guests the President invited represented America's finest hours and most compelling stories. They serve as a reminder of a history much larger than any individual among us and as an invitation to recommit to our values and promises to our people.

But last night, the President chose to invoke a national unity that he has made every effort to fray. It has been his cynical and sinister political strategy to divide our country and burn bridges among us.

The State of the Union is a platform for the President to inject urgency into the problems the country faces. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am encouraged that he has indicated he will sign bipartisan infrastructure legislation, and I am prepared to work with all Members to do so serving our country and communities.

The President also raised the specter of declaring a national emergency to build a monument to his ego, but the real national emergency is the looming climate crisis. As seas rise, fires burn, and the weather becomes more extreme, the people of Orange County and across our country are already suffering its effects, and action from the executive branch can no longer wait—let alone denial of climate change altogether.

He warned us not to cross him, to abandon our constitutional duty to exercise oversight and shine a light on the practices of the executive branch. Congress will not be intimidated.

We should not wait for nor should we expect the President to lead an agenda for the people, but this Congress can move forward with a seriousness befitting the problems of our time and work with one another regardless of party to improve the lives of the people who trusted us to represent them.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last night we heard a tremendous State of the Union Address from President Trump that expressed confidence and hope for the future of this great Nation.

Our economy is growing. Thanks in part to historic tax reform, there are currently more than 7 million job openings. This truly is the land of opportunity. We must continue to support smart policies that will expand opportunities for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with President Trump: Together, we can break decades of political stalemate and choose greatness over gridlock. We can work together for the common good to improve our outdated infrastructure; to protect American workers; to provide a check against the high cost of healthcare, prescription drugs; to secure our borders; and, yes, to fix our broken immigration system.

As a nation, we have a right to secure our borders. As President Trump stated, tolerance for illegal immigration is not compassionate; it is cruel. Smugglers use migrant women and children to exploit our laws and to gain access to our country.

Congress must act to address these issues that have plagued our country for far too long because it is clear that America is stronger when we work together.

We saw incredible moments of unity last night. One that stands out for me is when Republicans and Democrats in this Chamber sang "Happy Birthday" to Holocaust survivor, Judah Samet. Mr. Samet narrowly avoided the mass killing at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. Last night, he turned 81 years old. Mr. Speaker, I have witnessed many State of the Union Addresses, but that is a moment I will truly never forget.

The President and First Lady had many distinguished guests in addition to Mr. Samet, including another Pennsylvania resident, Pittsburgh Police Officer Timothy Matson.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Officer Matson raced into the Tree of Life synagogue and was shot seven times as he chased down the shooter. Officer Matson has undergone 12 surgeries. I understand he has more in the future, but he made the trip to Washington to be in the gallery last night.

We are proud of the bravery and heroism of both Officer Matson and Mr. Samet. It was an honor to have them in the Chamber last night.

The President and First Lady also welcomed a World War II and D-day veteran; the first man to step on the Moon; a childhood cancer survivor; former prisoners who, thanks to criminal justice reform, have their lives back; and many other special guests.

The State of the Union is both a time to reflect and look to the future, and this administration has achieved record-setting accomplishments. The policies being put forth truly are lifting up all Americans and setting a foundation to build a safe, strong, and proud America:

We have worked to combat the opioid crisis; we have provided relief from burdensome regulations; we have given our military the resources it needs to be successful; and we can continue to work towards solving the very serious problems facing this Nation.

Now, I thank President Trump for outlining his vision for the path forward, and I look forward to working together to overcome some of our greatest challenges. I know we can do it because it is the American way.

STATE OF THE UNION CELEBRATED WHAT IS GREAT ABOUT AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last night, in this very Chamber, we heard a lot about what has made America the strong country it is: the ideals, the founding ideals, and the strength of which, when the people are able to put their will, their way behind it, has made us the greatest country in the world.

What the President outlined were many important things. We have to keep coming back to the situation at our border.

Now, interestingly, polls taken last night by CBS and CNN—not the bastions of conservatism or the supporters of President Trump that you would expect—both of these polls, the people's voice across this country added up to 76 percent somewhat support or strongly support the measures the President had talked about in securing our border.

We can get into the semantics, if you want to call it a wall or call it a fence, whatever it is. "A strong fence makes for good neighbors"—an old cowboy saying.

The President laid out a plan that he wants to work with this Congress to

get to a resolution on that, not an executive order. But in the time since we came up with this temporary solution here for 3 weeks, the negotiations from that side of the aisle have been zip.

Is that what people see as this Chamber, that this process is supposed to be? No. They want us at the table coming up with solutions.

The President has reached out with an olive branch, saying: We will give you 3 more weeks on this. Let's get the government reopened and get a solution on this.

Instead, gridlock.

What the President talked about was greatness instead of gridlock. That is what this Nation is about. That is what we need.

Instead, we hear around here that the crisis isn't something at our border, isn't something with the immigration problem we have. We hear about climate change. Climate change, climate change—a manufactured problem, a manufactured crisis.

Indeed, the United States is leading the way of all the westernized countries, all the industrialized countries, of lowering its CO₂ numbers, leading the way by things we are already doing and innovating. Yet that is the first thing, that the religion of climate change can be tapped around here to stop the progress we have when we can make more progress by being a thriving, strong economy. The crisis isn't that. It would be much more so our crushing national debt and our border situation.

If we don't provide for our own security as a nation, then we don't really have much. So let's solve these issues. As we prosper, as we do better, we can even improve more on doing things environmentally more strongly.

I come from northern California, where the climate has been pretty tough with the drought. The climate is pretty tough where our forest burns around us and amongst us, like in the town of Paradise, the town of Redding, and other areas of the district that are so negatively affected by that.

The crisis doesn't lie in the religion of climate change. The crisis lies in us doing whatever we can to protect our citizens at the border, from the crushing national debt, and from the threatened export of our jobs that we should be employing our own people here.

Mr. Speaker, there is room for a lot of optimism. We heard that message of optimism last night from the President, again, right in this Chamber, when he mentioned our great heroes from World War II who were here last night and one of the people he liberated from those camps where the Germans held the Jewish people and executed so many of them and abused so many more.

What a great story of optimism and what America is about, liberating and preserving freedom in this country and around the world, and one of the highlights in my time here in this U.S. House of Representatives to see those

people come together so many years later and celebrating what is great about America and how it exports that freedom and opportunity to the rest of the world.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff, U.S. Navy Chaplain, Retired, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we the people stand before You, some in prayer, all in need.

Armed with our Founders' prayers and dreams: more perfect Union—less divided; liberty and justice—for us and our posterity.

We the people don't give up. Neither should our leaders.

Let our Nation never slumber: no closings, fits and starts; no honest pay denied for honest work; no time out from efforts to improve our lives, achieve our dreams.

On this day—1971—Alan Shepard hit two golf balls on the Moon: first human swings beyond the confines of the Earth.

At our best, fair play defines our work with some room for playfulness. We pursue, achieve extraordinary dreams with humor, joy—a touch of grace.

Reignite that joy and grace, we pray; make no room for hate or threats, or closing shop. Reignite our dreams, as we—our better angels—reunite for progress toward more perfect times.

And may we say, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.